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MAY 14 2008Appl. No. 10/849,359  
Reply to FOA of 03/14/2008**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please amend the claims as shown in the Listing of Claims below. This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A storage device having a hard disk for storing data, the hard disk including a disk medium and buffer means for writing data to the disk medium, the storage device comprising:

power supply means for supplying power to the storage device;

detecting means for detecting an operation to cut off a power supply from the power supply means to the storage device;

access suspending means for suspending access to the hard disk when the detecting means detects the operation;

medium writing means for performing a writing process for writing data stored in the buffer means to the disk medium when the detecting means detects the operation; [[and]]

power cutoff means for cutting off the power supply when the writing process has already been performed by the medium writing means; and

setting means for setting a waiting time required for the writing process,

wherein the power cutoff means cuts off the power supply after the waiting time set by the setting means has elapsed after the detection of the operation by the detecting means.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 8 [[24]], further comprising:

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a relay for generating an ON signal to connect the power supply means to the storage device and generating an OFF signal to disconnect the power supply means from the storage device in response to a control signal,

wherein the power supply is cut off by the OFF signal generated by the relay, the OFF signal being generated based on the control signal generated after the elapse of the waiting time.

11. (Currently Amended) A hard disk protecting method for a storage device having a hard disk for storing data, the hard disk having a disk medium and buffer means for writing data to the disk medium, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting an operation to cut off a power supply from a power supply means to the storage device;

suspending access to the hard disk when the operation is detected in the detecting step;

performing a writing process for writing data stored in the buffer means to the disk medium when the operation is detected in the detecting step; [[and]]

cutting off the power supply when the writing process has already been performed; and

setting a waiting time required for the writing process,

wherein the power supply is cut off after the waiting time has elapsed after the detection of the operation.

12-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A hard disk protecting method for a storage device having a hard disk for storing data, the hard disk having a disk medium and buffer means for writing data to the disk medium, the method comprising:

detecting a user action to cut off power supply from a power supplying means to the storage device;

suspending access to the hard disk when the user action is detected;

performing a writing process for writing data stored in the buffer means to the disk medium when the user action is detected;

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cutting off the power supply to the storage device when an operation to cut off the power supply is performed by a user, the operation being performed after a detection of the user action; [[and]]

notifying that the operation is not permitted in a case where the writing process has not been performed and notifying that the operation is permitted in a case where the writing process has already been performed; and

setting a waiting time required for the writing process,

wherein a notification that the operation is not permitted is notified when the waiting time has not elapsed after the detection of the user action and a notification that the operation is permitted is notified when the waiting time has elapsed after the detection of the user action.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim [[24]] 8, wherein the setting means sets the waiting time based on a buffer size of the buffer means.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[26]] 11, wherein the waiting time is set based on a buffer size of the buffer means.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim [[28]] 35, wherein the setting means sets the waiting time based on a buffer size of the buffer means.

30. (Canceled)

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31. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~[[30]]~~ 22, wherein the waiting time is set based on a buffer size of the buffer means.

32. (Canceled)

33. (New) A storage device having a hard disk for storing data, the hard disk including a disk medium and buffer means for writing data to the disk medium, the storage device comprising:

power supply means for supplying power to the storage device;

detecting means for detecting a user action to cut off a power supply from the power supply means to the storage device;

access suspending means for suspending access to the hard disk when the detecting means detects the user action;

medium writing means for performing a writing process for writing data stored in the buffer means to the disk medium when the detecting means detects the user action;

power cutoff means for cutting off the power supply to the storage device when an operation to cut off the power supply is performed by a user, the operation being performed after a detection of the user action; and

notifying means for notifying that the operation to cut off the power supply is not permitted in a case where the writing process has not been performed by the medium writing means and notifying that the operation is permitted in a case where the writing process has already been performed by the medium writing means,

wherein said notifying means notifies whether the operation to cut off the power supply is permitted or not using an LED (Light Emitting Diode).

34. (New) A storage device having a hard disk for storing data, the hard disk including a disk medium and buffer means for writing data to the disk medium, the storage device comprising:

power supply means for supplying power to the storage device;

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detecting means for detecting a user action to cut off a power supply from the power supply means to the storage device;

access suspending means for suspending access to the hard disk when the detecting means detects the user action;

medium writing means for performing a writing process for writing data stored in the buffer means to the disk medium when the detecting means detects the user action;

power cutoff means for cutting off the power supply to the storage device when an operation to cut off the power supply is performed by a user, the operation being performed after a detection of the user action; and

notifying means for notifying that the operation to cut off the power supply is not permitted in a case where the writing process has not been performed by the medium writing means and notifying that the operation is permitted in a case where the writing process has already been performed by the medium writing means,

wherein said notifying means notifies whether the operation to cut off the power supply is permitted or not by using a speaker.

35. (New) A storage device having a hard disk for storing data, the hard disk including a disk medium and buffer means for writing data to the disk medium, the storage device comprising:

power supply means for supplying power to the storage device;

detecting means for detecting a user action to cut off a power supply from the power supply means to the storage device;

access suspending means for suspending access to the hard disk when the detecting means detects the user action;

medium writing means for performing a writing process for writing data stored in the buffer means to the disk medium when the detecting means detects the user action;

power cutoff means for cutting off the power supply to the storage device when an operation to cut off the power supply is performed by a user, the operation being performed after a detection of the user action;

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notifying means for notifying that the operation to cut off the power supply is not permitted in a case where the writing process has not been performed by the medium writing means and notifying that the operation is permitted in a case where the writing process has already been performed by the medium writing means; and

setting means for setting a waiting time required for the writing process,  
wherein the notifying means notifies that the operation is not permitted when the waiting time has not elapsed after a detection of the user action and notifies that the operation is permitted when the waiting time has elapsed after the detection of the user action.

36. (New) A storage device having a hard disk for storing data, the hard disk including a disk medium and buffer means for writing data to the disk medium, the storage device comprising:

power supply means for supplying power to the storage device;

detecting means for detecting a user action to cut off a power supply from the power supply means to the storage device;

access suspending means for suspending access to the hard disk when the detecting means detects the user action;

medium writing means for performing a writing process for writing data stored in the buffer means to the disk medium when the detecting means detects the user action;

power cutoff means for cutting off the power supply to the storage device when an operation to cut off the power supply is performed by a user, the operation being performed after a detection of the user action; and

notifying means for notifying that the operation to cut off the power supply is not permitted in a case where the writing process has not been performed by the medium writing means and notifying that the operation is permitted in a case where the writing process has already been performed by the medium writing means,

wherein the detecting means detects the user action in a case where a cover to prevent the operation to cut off the power supply is moved from a predetermined position.